

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-5, 9, 10, 12-29, 32-41, 46-50, and 52-68 are pending in the application. Claims 65-68 have been added.

II. Interview

The applicants appreciate the Examiner's taking the time to conduct a telephone interview on Tuesday, May 9, 2006. The cited reference, Ahmad, was discussed. It was agreed that Ahmad does not anticipate the limitations of independent claim 1.

III. Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-5, 9, 10, 12-19, 46-50, 52-61 and 64 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,263,507 (Ahmad). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claims 1 and 46

Independent method claim 1 requires "storing a plurality of information segments in the database," "displaying at least a portion of one or more of the stored information segments," and "allowing the user to select information segments from among the one or more displayed information segments." Claim 1 further requires "storing, in a sequence in a buffer, indicators representing respective information segments selected by a user" and "allowing the user to rearrange the sequence of the indicators in the buffer to affect an order in which the user selected

information segments are to be presented to the user. Claim 46 is a system claim having limitations that correspond to those of claim 1.

Ahmad discloses a method of reviewing audio, video, text data, or a combination thereof, enabling data to be quickly reviewed to obtain an overview of the content of the body of information. (Abstract). Information segments are obtained by searching a database (referred to as a primary information source). The resulting information segments are displayed to the user on a display device.

Nowhere does Ahmad teach or suggest (1) “displaying at least a portion of one or more of the information segments;” (2) “allowing the user to select information segments from among the one or more displayed information segments;” (3) “storing, in a sequence in a buffer, indicators representing respective information segments selected by a user;” and (4) “allowing the user to rearrange the sequence of the indicators in the buffer to affect an order in which the user selected information segments are to be presented to the user.”

Although, as the Examiner points out, Ahmad discloses displaying “thumbnails” representing information segments, the method disclosed in Ahmad of using these thumbnails fails to anticipate claim 1.

Regardless of how the thumbnails of Ahmad are viewed, the claimed combination of limitations (1)-(4) as enumerated above is not taught or suggested by Ahmad. If the thumbnails are interpreted to be the claimed “information segments,” then Ahmad fails to teach or suggest limitations (3) and (4): “storing, in a sequence in a buffer, indicators representing respective information segments selected by a user” (emphasis added) and “allowing the user to rearrange the sequence of the indicators in the buffer to affect an order in which the user selected

information segments are to be presented to the user.” The information segments that are selected by the user in claim 1 are selected “from among the one or more displayed information segments,” as recited in limitation (2). According to Ahmad, the thumbnails relate to primary information segments currently being displayed, and are selected and displayed automatically. (Col. 16, lines 56-65). When a user selects a respective thumbnail, the corresponding information segment is simply played on a display device. No “indicator” representing the selected thumbnail is created or stored in a sequence in a buffer, as required by amended claim 1. Ahmad also does not disclose any technique for rearranging the “sequence” of the thumbnails, either, as required by claim 1.

If, on the other hand, the thumbnails are interpreted to be the claimed “indicators,” then Ahmad fails to teach or suggest limitation (4) of claim 1: “allowing the user to rearrange the sequence of the indicators in the buffer to affect an order in which the user selected information segments are to be presented to the user.” As stated above, the thumbnails relate to primary information segments currently being displayed, and are selected and displayed automatically. Ahmad does not disclose any technique for rearranging the “sequence” of the thumbnails, as required by claim 1. While the Office Action points out that Ahmad discusses a “sorting” function, the disclosed sorting function only appears to allow a user to sort primary information segments by topic, before their initial display. (Col. 23, lines 10-17). Ahmad does not teach or suggest selecting information segments from among the one or more displayed information segments, storing in a sequence in a buffer indicators representing the information segments selected by the user, and allowing the user to rearrange the sequence, as claimed.

Accordingly, claim 1, together with its dependent claims (2-4, 9-10, 12-19), and claim 46, together with its dependent claims (47-50, 52-60, 64), are not anticipated by Ahmad.

IV. Claim Rejection - 35 USC § 103

Claims 20-29, 32, 33, 35-41, 62 and 63 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Ahmad in view of U.S. Patent 6,028,603 (Wang). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Wang discloses a technique for presenting a collection of digital media in a media container. (Abstract).

Claims 20-29, 32, 33, 35-41, and 63

Independent method claim 20, requires “providing a buffer,” “receiving from the user selections of information segments in the database, the user selected information segments being represented by respective indicators,” and “storing, in a sequence in the buffer, the indicators corresponding to the user selected information segments.” Claim 20 further requires “allowing the user to select an indicator in the sequence and change the position of the selected indicator with respect to the other indicators in the sequence” and “presenting the user selected information segments represented by the respective indicators in the sequence in the same order as the respective indicators in the sequence.”

Ahmad does not teach or suggest “receiving from the user selections of information segments in the database, the user selected information segments being represented by respective indicators” and “storing, in a sequence in the buffer, the indicators corresponding to the user

selected information segments.” (Emphasis added). It is noted that the term “selections” used in claim 20 is in the plural. While Ahmad displays thumbnails relating to primary information segments, the thumbnails result from a single search of the database. The user does not then select information segments from among the displayed thumbnails which are stored in a sequence in the buffer, as claimed. Therefore, claim 20 and its dependent claims (21-29, 63) are patentable over the cited art.

Independent method claim 32 requires “receiving a request including one or more preferences concerning desired information segments,” “searching the database in response to the request,” and “providing an indicator representative of at least one information segment selected from the database which satisfies the preferences.” Claim 32 also requires “placing the indicator in a buffer,” “arranging the indicator with at least a second indicator in the buffer in a sequence, the second indicator being representative of a second information segment,” and “allowing the user to select the indicator and change the position of the indicator with respect to the second indicator in the sequence, to generate a selected order of the indicators.” Claim 32 further requires “presenting the selected information segment and the second information segment according to the selected order of the indicators representative thereof in the buffer.”

The Office Action asserts that Ahmad discloses several of the limitations of claim 32. The applicants respectfully disagree. For example, Ahmad does not teach or suggest “presenting the selected information segment and the second information segment according to the selected order of the indicators representative thereof in the buffer.” While Ahmad discloses displaying thumbnails relating to primary information segments on a user’s display device, a corresponding primary information source is displayed upon selection of a thumbnail. Ahmad does not present

a sequence of primary information segments according to the “selected order” of the thumbnails, stored in the sequence in the buffer, as required by claim 32. Therefore, claim 32 and its dependent claims (33, 35-41) are patentable over the cited art.

Claim 62

Claim 62 depends from independent claim 1. For the reasons set forth above, claim 1 is patentable over the cited art. Therefore, claim 62 is also patentable over the cited art.

Claim 34

Claim 34 was rejected under U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Ahmad in view of Wang and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,020,883 (Herz). Claim 34 depends from amended claim 32. For reasons set forth above, amended claim 32 is patentable over the cited art. Therefore, claim 34 is also patentable over the cited art.

V. New Claims 65-68

New claim 65 defines a method for presenting to a user information segments from a database, and requires “providing a buffer,” and “receiving from the user selections of individual information segments in the database, each of the user selected information segments being represented by respective indicators, the indicators being different from the corresponding information segments.” Claim 65 further requires “storing, in a sequence in the buffer, the indicators corresponding to the user selected information segments, in response to the selection of each individual information segment,” and “allowing the user to select an indicator in the

sequence and change the position of the selected indicator with respect to the other indicators in the sequence.” Claim 65 also requires “presenting the user selected information segments represented by the respective indicators in the sequence in the same order as the respective indicators in the sequence.”

None of the cited art teaches or suggests the combination recited in claim 65. For example, none of the cited art teaches or suggests “storing, in a sequence in the buffer, the indicators corresponding to the user selected information segments, in response to the selection of each individual information segment,” as required by claim 65. Therefore, new claim 65 is patentable over the cited art.

New claim 66 defines a method for providing a user with information from a database, and requires “storing a plurality of video files in the database,” “searching one or more databases to identify a plurality of video files pertaining to a topic selected by a user,” and “displaying to the user a respective descriptor of each of the identified video files.” Claim 66 further requires “allowing the user to select, for placement into a buffer, individual ones of the displayed descriptors,” “storing in a sequence in the buffer, in response to each selection of a descriptor, an indicator comprising at least a respective text indicative of the video file corresponding to the selected descriptor,” and “allowing the user to rearrange the sequence of the indicators in the buffer to create a second sequence.” Claim 66 also requires “presenting the video files corresponding to the indicators in the buffer in accordance with the second sequence.”

None of the cited art teaches or suggests the combination recited in claim 66. For example, none of the cited art teaches or suggests “storing in a sequence in the buffer, in response to each selection of a descriptor, an indicator comprising at least a respective text

indicative of the video file corresponding to the selected descriptor.” Therefore, new claim 66 is patentable over the cited art.

New claim 67 depends from claim 66, and further requires “searching one or more databases to identify a plurality of video files pertaining to a topic selected by a user, in response to a selection of a displayed topic.” Claim 66 is patentable over the cited art for the reasons set forth above. Therefore, new claim 67 is also patentable over the cited art by virtue of its dependency on claim 66.

New claim 68 depends from claim 1, and further recites “wherein the indicator is different than the displayed portion of one or more of the stored information segments.” Claim 1 is patentable over the cited art for the reasons set forth above. Therefore, new claim 68 is also patentable over the cited art by virtue of its dependency on claim 1.

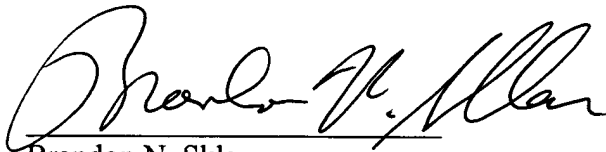
VI. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, each of claims 1-5, 9, 10, 12-29, 32-41, 46-50 and 52-68 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of these claims is requested and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
Kaye Scholer LLP

Date: May 16, 2006

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brandon N. Sklar", written over a horizontal line.

Brandon N. Sklar
Reg. No. 31,667
212-836-8653

Kaye Scholer LLP
425 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10022